

Claims

- [c1] 1. A device for monitoring the cleaning of a milk line during a cleaning cycle, the device comprising:
a monitoring-unit comprising a computer and a memory for at least temporarily storing data;
a thermometer for measuring the temperature of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line and for supplying to the monitoring-unit a temperature signal that is indicative of the measured temperature; and
a comparing device for determining whether the measured temperature is higher than a predetermined threshold temperature, the comparing device determining a first point of time when the measured temperature has come above the threshold temperature during a cleaning cycle, and determining a last point of time when the measured temperature has been above the threshold temperature during the same cleaning cycle.
- [c2] 2. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the comparing device determines a highest temperature between the first and the last point of time.
- [c3] 3. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the comparing device determines an average temperature between

the first and the last point of time.

- [c4] 4. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the comparing device determines whether the measured temperature between the first and the last point of time at least equals a second threshold temperature during a minimum, predetermined uninterrupted period of time.
- [c5] 5. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is provided with a conductivity meter for measuring conductivity of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line.
- [c6] 6. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is provided with a meter for measuring an optical parameter of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line.
- [c7] 7. The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the meter for measuring an optical parameter is a color meter for measuring the color or the intensity of a color band of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line.
- [c8] 8. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an alarm device can be operated by the comparing device.
- [c9] 9. A method of monitoring the cleaning of a milk line during a cleaning cycle, the method comprising:

measuring the temperature of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line;
determining whether the measured temperature is higher than a predetermined threshold temperature;
determining a first point of time when the measured temperature has come above the threshold temperature during a cleaning cycle; and
determining a last point of time when the measured temperature has been above the threshold temperature during the same cleaning cycle.

- [c10] 10. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises determining a highest measured temperature between the first and the last point of time.
- [c11] 11. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises determining an average measured temperature between the first and the last point of time.
- [c12] 12. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises determining whether the measured temperature between the first and the last point of time at least equals a second threshold temperature during a minimum, predetermined uninterrupted period of time.

- [c13] 13. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises giving an alarm when the period of time between the first point of time and the last point of time is shorter than a predetermined threshold time.
- [c14] 14. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the method further comprises giving an alarm when the highest measured temperature is lower than a predetermined threshold top temperature.
- [c15] 15. The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the method further comprises giving an alarm when the average measured temperature is lower than a predetermined average threshold temperature.
- [c16] 16. The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the method further comprises giving an alarm when the measured temperature does not at least equal the second threshold temperature during the minimum, predetermined uninterrupted period of time.
- [c17] 17. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the method further comprises measuring a conductivity of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line.
- [c18] 18. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the

method further comprises measuring an optical parameter of a color band of a fluid that is present or has been present in the milk line.

[c19] 19. The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the optical parameter is the color or the intensity of the fluid.

[c20] 20. The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the last point of time is determined by measuring, within a measuring-time duration after a moment when the measured temperature has come below the threshold temperature, whether the measured temperature rises again to above the threshold temperature.